

Claims

1. A tooling system which comprises a plurality of elements arranged in an array, each element being supported on a cross rail and being moveable relative to the other elements in the array, characterised in that each element terminates in a threaded support post extending from a first end of the element, and is associated with a
5 corresponding internally threaded aperture in the cross rail upon which the element is supported, and in that the tooling system further comprises an adjusting component in the form of a fork which is driveable in rotation and engageable with an element of the array to drive the element in rotation, upon rotation of the fork.
- 10 2. A tooling system according to claim 1 characterised in that the fork comprises a head portion, and a plurality of spaced tines depending from the head portion, the tines defining an adjustment area corresponding to the area of an element of the array.
3. A tooling system according to claim 2 characterised in that the fork comprises a
15 substantially square head portion, from each of the four corners of which square head depends a tine, the tines defining an adjustment area corresponding to the area of an element of the array.
4. A tooling system according to any of claims 1 to 3 characterised in that the fork comprises an adjustable fork, the tines of which depend from a head portion, the position of which tines can be adjusted relative to each other to define a plurality of
20 differently sized adjustment areas.
5. A tooling system according to any of claims 1 to 4 characterised in that the radius described by rotation of the fork is less than or equal to the radius of rotation of an element in the array.
- 25 6. A tooling system according to any of claims 1 to 5 characterised in that the the fork is connected to a driving means for driving the fork in rotation, by means of a flexible coupling.

7. A tooling system according to any of claims 1 to 6 characterised in that mass is added to the fork in order to increase its driving force.
8. A fork for use in a tooling system according to any of claims 1 to 7 which fork comprises a head portion, and a plurality of spaced tines depending from the head portion, each of which tines comprises a first section adjacent to the head portion and having an inwardly facing surface which together with the inwardly facing surfaces of the other tines defines an adjustment area and a second section remote from the head portion and having an inwardly facing guide surface.
9. A fork according to claim 8 characterised in that the inwardly facing guide surface of the second section of the tine is convex.
10. A fork according to claim 8 or claim 9 which fork comprises a square head portion, from each of the four corners of which depends a tine, each of the four tines comprising a first section which is substantially triangular in cross-section, leading to a second section, the inwardly facing surface of which tapers towards the free end of the tine.
11. A fork as claimed in claim 10 in which the square head portion is adjustable in size, so that the tines can be moved relative to one another to define a plurality of differently sized adjustment areas, corresponding to differently sized elements.
12. A fork according to any of claims 8 to 11, the tines of which are adapted to engage with an element of the array in gripping engagement.
13. A fork as claimed in claim 12 which comprises means for moving the tines away from the element and then pivoting them into engagement therewith.
14. A fork as claimed in claim 12 in which the tines are formed with expandable faces.

15. A fork according to any of claims 8 to 14, which fork further comprises one or more sensors, for detecting the position of and measuring the force applied to, an element of the array.